

## Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: EXCELSIOR ARTICLE ON DRUG ENFORCEMENT

REF: MEXICO 0608

AS REQUESTED, WE ARE PROVIDING YOU WITH THE TEXT OF THREE LETTERS SENT TO SENATOR PERCY CONCERNING THE MEXICAN CAMPAIGN.

1. LETTER TO SENATOR PERCY FROM ROBERT J. MCCLOSKEY, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS, DATED NOVEMBER 4, 1975 READS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE. DEAR SENATOR PERCY: THE SECRETARY HAS ASKED ME TO REPLY TO YOUR LETTER OF OCTOBER 22, AND TO CONVEY HIS DEEP CONTINUING CONCERN WITH THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE SUBSTANTIAL FLOW OF HEROIN INTO THE UNITED STATES FROM MEXICO.

THE DEPARTMENT IS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH YOU, AS ARE HIGHEST LEVEL AMERICAN AND MEXICAN OFFICIALS, THAT INCREASED EFFORTS ARE REQUIRED TO SUPPRESS THIS TRAFFIC.  
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PRESIDENT FORD DISCUSSED THE NEED FOR INCREASED U.S.-MEXICAN NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS WITH PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA DURING THEIR TALKS IN NOVEMBER 1974. NARCOTICS CONTROL WILL CONTINUE TO BE A PRIORITY SUBJECT FOR REVIEW DURING

DISCUSSIONS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. AT THE EMBASSY LEVEL, AMBASSADOR JOVA MAINTAINS A CONTINUING DIALOGUE ON OUR COORDINATED EFFORTS TO INCREASE NARCOTICS CONTROL WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL, WHO HAS BEEN DESIGNATED BY PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AS THE MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL ASPECTS OF MEXICAN NARCOTICS CONTROL.

AMBASSADOR SHELDON B. VANCE, THE SECRETARY'S SENIOR ADVISER, WHO IS ALSO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL, AND THE LEADERSHIP OF THE DEA MEET PERIODICALLY WITH THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL TO REVIEW COMMON EFFORTS OF NARCOTICS CONTROL AND PLAN FOR THE SPECIFIC PROGRAMS OF ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS. THEY WILL BE MEETING AGAIN WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ON NOVEMBER 8 TO REVIEW PLANS FOR THE FORTHCOMING INTENSIVE ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION CAMPAIGN SCHEDULED TO BEGIN IN MID-NOVEMBER.

AT THE WORKING LEVEL, WE HAVE DAILY CONTACT WITH MEXICAN AUTHORITIES IN MEXICO CITY ON POLICY, TECHNICAL, AND OPERATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE DRUG CONTROL PROGRAM.

AN INTENSIVE ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION CAMPAIGN WILL BEGIN IN MID-NOVEMBER TO INSURE MORE EFFECTIVE DESTRUCTION OF POPPY FIELDS PLANTED SEASONALLY EARLY THIS YEAR. THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS COMMITTED INCREASED RESOURCES IN MANPOWER AND COMMODITIES AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME, HAS EXTENDED THE CAMPAIGN TO INCLUDE ERADICATION OF FIELDS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN STATES OF MEXICO WHERE INCREASED POPPY PRODUCTION HAS BEEN NOTED.

UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE TO MEXICO IN THE FORM OF EQUIPMENT (PRIMARILY HELICOPTERS TO MOVE ERADICATION TROOPS TO THE MOUNTAINOUS POPPY FIELD AREAS) AND TRAINING HAS BEEN INCREASED. FOR FY 1975 AND FY 1976, U.S. ASSISTANCE TO

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MEXICO IN NARCOTICS CONTROL WILL TOTAL 21.6 MILLION DOLS. TOTAL MEXICAN GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURES FOR NARCOTICS CONTROL IN 1975 ALONE ARE ESTIMATED BY OUR EMBASSY TO BE 37 MILLION DOLS.

THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IS EVIDENCING STRONG COOPERATION AND COMMITMENT IN ITS PROGRAM TO COMBAT THE ILLEGAL GROWERS AND TRAFFICKERS IN HEROIN. AN EXAMPLE OF THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO NARCOTICS CONTROL BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT MAY BE NOTED IN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1975, AT WHICH TIME THE SUBJECT OF NARCOTICS CONTROL RANKED FIRST AMONG BILATERAL ISSUES MENTIONED.

THE PROBLEM IS EXTREMELY COMPLEX AND IS OPEN NEITHER TO SIMPLE NOR RAPID MEANS OF RESOLUTION. BUT YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT THE SECRETARY AND ALL ELEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNED WILL CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MEASURES TO CURB THE FLOW OF HEROIN FROM MEXICO TO THE UNITED STATES, WHILE STEADFASTLY SEARCHING FOR NEW INITIATIVES TO STEM THIS ILLICIT TRAFFIC.

WE WELCOME YOUR STATEMENTS OF CONCERN AND YOUR SUPPORT IN THE PROGRAM AND WILL BE HAPPY TO KEEP YOU FULLY INFORMED OF THE DEPARTMENT'S ACTIVITIES IN THIS MATTER OF VITAL INTEREST TO AMERICAN SOCIETY. SINCERELY YOURS, ROBERT J. MCCLOSKEY. UNQUOTE.

2. LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY TO SENATOR PERCY DATED DECEMBER 2, 1975 READS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE. DEAR CHUCK: I AGREE WITH THE STATEMENT IN YOUR LETTERS OF OCTOBER 22 AND NOVEMBER 14 THAT THE FLOW OF HEROIN TO THE UNITED STATES FROM MEXICO IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM, AND ASSURE YOU THAT YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR NARCOTICS CONTROL ENDEAVORS AND INTEREST IN FINDING NEW MEANS OF RESOLUTION ARE MOST WELCOME.

ON NOVEMBER 8, IN MEXICO CITY, MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL PEDRO OJEDA PAULLADA MET WITH MY SENIOR ADVISER ON NARCOTICS MATTERS, AMBASSADOR SHELDON B. VANCE; AMBASSADOR UNCLASSIFIED

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TO MEXICO, JOSEPH J. JOVA AND THE ACTING ADMINISTRATOR OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, HENRY DOGIN, TO REVIEW JOINT UNITED STATES-MEXICAN PLANNING FOR THE CURRENT INTENSIFIED MEXICAN CAMPAIGN OF POPPY ERADICATION AND HEROIN INTERDICTION. SUBSEQUENTLY, ON NOVEMBER 13, THE MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THE INAUGURATION OF THE CURRENT MEXICAN EXPANDED CAMPAIGN AND, VERY IMPORTANTLY, DESCRIBED HIS PLANS TO BEGIN USING SELECTED AERIAL SPRAYED HERBICIDES TO DESTROY THE OPIUM POPPY FIELDS. I RESPONDED TO THE MEXICAN INITIATIVE IN A PRESS STATEMENT ISSUED ON NOVEMBER 14, IN WHICH I COMMENDED THE COOPERATIVE EFFORTS OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IN INCREASING SIGNIFICANTLY ITS EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS OPIUM PRODUCTION AND TRAFFIC IN HEROIN. ENCLOSED IS A COPY OF THE PRESS STATEMENT.

THE FACT IS THAT THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT HAS GREATLY INCREASED ITS DRUG CONTROL EFFORTS AND ITS COMMITMENT TO CONTROL THE PROBLEM. WE CAN NOW REASONABLY EXPECT MORE SUBSTANTIAL RESULTS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF AUGMENTED UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE, THE DEPLOYMENT OF EXPANDED MEXICAN HUMAN AND MATERIAL RESOURCES AND THE ADOPTION OF MORE

ADVANCED MEASURES OF ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION.

IN VIEW OF THE CURRENT INCREASED COMMITMENT AND ACTIONS ON THE PART OF THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT, ADDITIONAL HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS AT THIS TIME DO NOT SEEM APPROPRIATE. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN OUR AMBASSADOR AND SENIOR MEXICAN OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN HIGH MOMENTUM IN OUR JOINT EFFORTS OF NARCOTICS CONTROL AND SEEK FURTHER NEW WAYS TO IMPROVE THE PROGRAM.

YOU EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF WILL IN RESOLVING THE FRENCH CONNECTION. I FULLY AGREE WITH YOU ON THE NEED FOR WILL OR COMMITMENT TO THE PROBLEM. I AM CONVINCED THAT THAT IS WHAT WE ARE NOW ACHIEVING WITH THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT. WE HAVE A DEFINITIVE SENSE OF COMMITMENT FROM THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT, AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE SUPPLY OF HEROIN FLOWING FROM MEXICAN SOURCES WILL BE REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY AS THE RESULT OF OUR COMMON EFFORTS. UNCLASSIFIED

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I WILL ARRANGE FOR YOU TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS OF THE MEXICAN ERADICATION CAMPAIGN. WARM REGARDS, HENRY A. KISSINGER. UNQUOTE.

3. LETTER TO SENATOR PERCY FROM HENRY S. DOGIN, ACTING ADMINISTRATOR, DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, DATED DECEMBER 4, 1975 READS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE. DEAR SENATOR PERCY: THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO YOUR LETTER OF NOVEMBER 11, 1975 WHEREIN YOU REQUESTED A REPORT ON DEA'S CONTINUING PROGRESS IN DEALING WITH THE MEXICAN NARCOTICS PROBLEM.

AS YOU KNOW, I RECENTLY VISITED MEXICO CITY WITH AMBASSADOR VANCE AND MET WITH MEXICO'S ATTORNEY GENERAL PEDRO OJEDA-PAULLADA. I ASSURED GENERAL OJEDA-PAULLADA OF THE FULL SUPPORT OF DEA AND ALL OTHER UNITED STATES AGENCIES VESTED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF NARCOTIC SUPPRESSION. HOWEVER, WHILE OFFERING THIS SUPPORT, I EMPHASIZED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND HIS GOVERNMENT TO EFFECTIVELY CURTAIL THE INCREASING FLOW OF HEROIN FROM MEXICO TO THE UNITED STATES. I CALLED UPON HIM FOR A TOTAL COMMITMENT.

IN OUR TALKS, THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT WHILE MUCH GOOD WORK IN THE AREA OF POPPY ERADICATION AND ILLICIT TRAFFIC SUPPRESSION HAD BEEN CARRIED OUT IN THE PAST, THE PROBLEM HAD INCREASED IN RESPONSE TO GREATER DEMAND FROM THE UNITED STATES AS HEROIN SMUGGLING FROM FRANCE DECLINED. AS A RESULT OF OUR DISCUSSIONS, I THINK THERE IS NOW A

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BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE EXTENT OF THE ILLICIT OPIUM PRODUCTION PROBLEM IN MEXICO AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO TO MORE EFFECTIVELY DETECT AND ERADICATE THE POPPY.

AS A STEP IN THIS DIRECTION, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS APPOINTED ALEXANDER GERTZ A DYNAMIC YOUNG MEXICAN GOVERNMENT EXECUTIVE AS A SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO DIRECT THE 1976 NARCOTIC CROP ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION CAMPAIGN.  
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MUCH OF WHAT HE OUTLINED TO US AT OUR MEETINGS OF NOVEMBER 8 AND 9 WAS CONFIRMED AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HE HELD ON NOVEMBER 13. HE SET NOVEMBER 15 AS THE OPENING DATE OF THE 1976 ERADICATION CAMPAIGN. HE STATED THAT 350 FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE AGENTS AND 5,000 SOLDIERS WOULD BE ASSIGNED. THEY WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY A TOTAL OF 39 HELICOPTERS AND FIXED WING AIRCRAFT. THE POPPY GROWING AND INTERDICTION AREAS HAVE BEEN DIVIDED INTO EIGHT COMMAND ZONES.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNOUNCED AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE THAT HERBICIDES, OF AN APPROVED TYPE REGULARLY USED IN MEXICO FOR WEED CONTROL, WOULD BE UTILIZED TO DESTROY POPPY CULTIVATION. THE HERBICIDES WILL BE SPRAYED BY SPECIAL CROP DUSTING HELICOPTERS AND AS NECESSARY, ARMY TROOPS EQUIPPED WITH BACK-PACK SPRAYS. THIS PROGRAM WAS LAUNCHED ON NOVEMBER 25.

ON NOVEMBER 21, THE FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE ZONE COMMANDERS WITH THEIR AGENT PERSONNEL, TOOK UP POSITION AND ON NOVEMBER 23 THEY WERE JOINED BY THE ARMY TROOPS. AIR RECONNAISSANCE WHICH BEGAN ON NOVEMBER 15 HAS ALREADY DETECTED POPPY TARGETS FOR ERADICATION. THE OPERATIONAL AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE UNITS HAVE BEEN INCREASED FROM ONE TO TWO.

PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS HAVE ALSO BEEN MADE WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA-PAULLADA TO EXPERIMENTALLY TEST THE FEASIBILITY OF SATELLITE DETECTING OF POPPY OVER THE WHOLE OF MEXICO. TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THIS PROJECT ARE BEING MADE AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE HERE IN THE UNITED STATES.

WHILE PRIORITY IS BEING GIVEN BY THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT TO INCREASING THEIR ABILITY TO DETECT AND ERADICATE POPPY, A CONCENTRATED EFFORT IS ALSO BEING MADE TO EXPAND AND ENHANCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE FEDERAL JUDICIAL POLICE EFFORT TO INTERDICT THE ILLICIT TRAFFIC THROUGH INCREASED NARCOTIC ARRESTS AND SEIZURES AND THE

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IMMOBILIZATION OF HEROIN LABORATORIES.

IN ADDITION TO THESE EFFORTS TO INTERCEPT THE MOVEMENT OF HEROIN TOWARD THE UNITED STATES BORDER, THE TECHNIQUE OF JOINT PROSECUTIONS INAUGURATED IN 1975 IS BEING EXPANDED TO IMMOBILIZE MAJOR HEROIN SOURCES OF SUPPLY IN MEXICO. THIS PROGRAM FOLLOWS THE CONCEPT DEVELOPED WITH THE FRENCH AUTHORITIES OVER A PERIOD OF YEARS WHEREBY SOURCES OF SUPPLY IN FRANCE WERE PROSECUTED ON THE BASIS OF EVIDENCE AND TESTIMONY DEVELOPED AGAINST THEM IN THE UNITED STATES AND PRESENTED TO THE FRENCH COURTS VIA ROGATORY COMMISSIONS. IF A DEFENDANT ARRESTED IN THE UNITED STATES, IN CONNECTION WITH HEROIN OBTAINED IN MEXICO, WISHES TO COOPERATE WE NOW INVITE A MEXICAN FEDERAL PROSECUTOR AND CONSULAR OFFICER TO TAKE AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT FROM THE COOPERATING INDIVIDUAL. THE STATEMENT TOGETHER WITH OTHER EVIDENCE OBTAINED IN THE COURSE OF THE INVESTIGATION IN THE UNITED STATES IS PROVIDED THE JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES IN MEXICO. THEY THEN FILE CHARGES AND PROSECUTE THE SOURCES OF SUPPLY. DURING 1975, 14 IMPORTANT PROSECUTIONS HAVE BEEN INITIATED IN MEXICO STRIKING AT SOURCES OF SUPPLY WHICH PRIOR TO THE UTILIZATION OF THIS TECHNIQUE ENJOYED VIRTUAL IMMUNITY.

IN SUPPORT OF THE MEXICAN PROGRAM, WE ARE INCREASING OUR SPECIAL AGENT STAFF IN MEXICO FROM 22 TO 30 AGENTS. WE ARE ALSO ASSIGNING 12 ADDITIONAL SPECIAL AGENTS ON TEMPORARY DUTY DURING THE CRITICAL STAGES OF THE CAMPAIGN.

ON THE DOMESTIC SCENE, WE ARE MORE FULLY EXPLOITING OUR INVESTIGATIVE AND INTELLIGENCE RESOURCES TO INCREASE THE DEVELOPMENT OF MAJOR CONSPIRACY PROSECUTION PARTICULARLY CASES INVOLVING THE TRAFFIC OF HEROIN FROM MEXICO. DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS AS OUR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH THE MEXICAN AUTHORITIES EFFECTIVELY CURTAILS OPIUM PRODUCTION AND THE HEROIN TRAFFIC AN INTENSIVE PROGRAM OF CONSPIRACY PROSECUTION PROVIDES ONE OF THE BEST MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED STATES TO DISRUPT THIS TRAFFIC.

AS WE SEE IT, WE SHALL CONTINUE TO BE CONFRONTED FROM MEXICO WITH A HEROIN THREAT UNTIL SUCH TIME AS HEAVY UNCLASSIFIED

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ILLICIT OPIUM PRODUCTION IN THAT COUNTRY CAN BE CURTAILED.

WE BELIEVE THAT EVERYTHING POSSIBLE HAS BEEN DONE IN THE WAY OF PROGRAM PLANNING AND THE ASSIGNMENT OF MANPOWER AND RESOURCES TO THE ERADICATION AND INTERDICTION

CAMPAIGN IN MEXICO. THE CHALLENGE IS VERY GREAT BUT IF

THE PROGRAM IS IMPLEMENTED WITH DETERMINATION AND EFFEC-  
TIVENESS, A MEANINGFUL DIMINUTION IN THE TRAFFIC OF HEROIN  
TO THE UNITED STATES WILL BE POSSIBLE IN 1976.

SINCERELY, HENRY S. DOGIN. UNQUOTE. KISSINGER

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